

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 DOTE-00 OMB-01

TRSE-00 XMB-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

NEA-10 /056 W

-----055328 251752Z /44

R 251420Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0521

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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BRUSSELS FOR USEC; NAIROBI FOR REDSO/EA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, KA, BC

SUBJ: RAILROAD PROMOTIONAL PROGRAM FOR BOTSWANA

REF: (A) GABORONE 1929 (NOTAL), (B) STATE 194504 (NOTAL)

1. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE (REF A), GOB ACCORDS HIGHEST PRIORITY (A) TO DEVELOPING CAPABILITY OF USING EXISTING RHODESIAN RAILWAY IN THE EVENT SERVICE IS DISRUPTED AND EVENTUALLY (B) MAKING IT AN INDEPENDENT, BOTSWANA-CONTROLLED RAILWAY. CONSERVATIVE COST ESTIMATES OF FIRST STEP IN THIS PROJECT ARE PLACED AT

\$36 MILLION. COSTS INCLUDE FREIGHT LOCOMOTIVES (DIESEL), SWITCH ENGINES, GOODS WAGONS, MAINTENANCE FACILITIES, SIGNAL

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EQUIPMENT, AND ESSENTIAL ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER BUILDINGS.

2. AT PRESENT, GOB HAS ASSURED AND ANTICIPATED DONOR FINANCING FROM THE UK, FRG, EDF, CIDA, THE US AND POSSIBLY FROM KUWAIT AND SAUDI ARABIA.

3. WE EXPECT THAT GOB WILL TAKE MEASURES, BEGINNING WITH MEETING

OF POTENTIAL DONORS CALLED BY EDF OR IBRD IN SEPTEMBER, TO SOLVE PROCUREMENT PROBLEMS ARISING FROM MULTIPLICITY OF DONORS. GOB OFFICIALS HAVE ALREADY TOLD US THAT THEY WANT US-MADE LOCOMOTIVES.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WOULD BE VERY USEFUL FOR USDOC TO CONSIDER MOUNTING A RAILWAY TRADE MISSION TO BOTSWANA IN FISCAL YEAR 1978, AFTER THE DONORS CONFERENCE (EXPECTED IN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1977) AND AFTER GROUND RULES FOR PROCUREMENT ARE KNOWN. IN ADDITION TO EXECUTIVES, MISSION SHOULD PROBABLY ALSO INCLUDE TECHNICAL PERSONNEL. WE BELIEVE THAT A PROMOTIONAL PROGRAM COMING IN FY 1979 (SUBJECT OF REF B) WOULD COME TOO LATE.

5. EMBOFF INFORMALLY BROACHED IDEA OF A MISSION WITH SENIOR PLANNING OFFICER MARTIN TAYLOR (MINFIN) WHO IN TURN CHECKED WITH ECONOMIC PLANNING OFFICER STEVENS (MINFIN), KGAU SOLBERG (SENIOR PLANNING OFFICER, MINISTRY OF WORKS AND COMMUNICATIONS) AND SECRETARY TO CABINET STEENKAMP. CONSENSUS WAS THAT IF A RAILWAY MISSION WERE POSSIBLE IT WOULD BE WELCOME AND IDEAL TIME FOR A VISIT WOULD BE NOVEMBER/DECEMBER OF THIS YEAR. EMBASSY AWARE THAT USDOC RAILROAD MISSION VISITED BOTSWANA FOR SEVERAL DAYS IN APRIL 1975; HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF FACT THAT A SUBSTANTIAL RAILROAD PROJECT NOW SEEMS TO BE GATHERING STEAM, WE BELIEVE A SECOND MISSION WOULD BE JUSTIFIED LATER IN 1977. PLEASE ADVISE.

NORLAND

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 25-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Format: TEL
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770825/aaaaaujl.tel
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Litigation History:
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RAILROAD PROMOTIONAL PROGRAM FOR BOTSWANA
TAGS: BEXP, XA, BC
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